The **buccinator** is a thin quadrilateral muscle of facial expression, occupying the interval between the maxilla and the mandible at the side of the face.

Its purpose is to pull back the angle of the mouth and to flatten the cheek area, which aids in holding the cheek to the teeth during chewing.

It also aids in whistling and smiling and in neonates it is used to suckle.

**It was number 16 on our drawing of muscles of facial expression.**

Here are two other examples of the buccinators.



